

CLAIMS

1. A stress-at-work judging apparatus comprising:
myoelectric potential signal input means for receiving a myoelectric potential signal from a masseter muscle of a test subject during a target work activity performed through a movement of a muscle independent of a movement of the masseter muscle which is opening and closing jaws of the test subject; and
stress judging means for judging stress from the myoelectric potential signal showing a change in the movement of the masseter muscle which appears when the target work activity acts as a stressor on the test subject.
2. The stress-at-work judging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the stress judging means excludes a period during which the test subject performs a predetermined work activity which uses the masseter muscle independently of the target work activity from a target period for stress judgment.
3. The stress-at-work judging apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the stress judging means specifies the period during which the test subject performs the

predetermined work activity which uses the masseter muscle independently of the target work activity from voice data acquired by inputting a speech of the test subject or from image data acquired by inputting an image of a face of the test subject.

4. The stress-at-work judging apparatus according to any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein the target work is a vehicle steering operation performed by the test subject.

5. A computer-executable program for causing a computer to perform stress-at-work judgment, the computer-executable program comprises:

an input procedure for causing calculating means of the computer to receive a myoelectric potential signal from a masseter muscle of a test subject during a target work activity performed through a movement of a muscle independent of a movement of the masseter muscle which is opening and closing jaws of the test subject; and

a judgment procedure for causing the calculating means of the computer to judge stress from the myoelectric potential signal showing a change in the movement of the masseter muscle which appears when the target work activity acts as a stressor on the test subject.

6. The stress-at-work judging program according to claim 5, wherein the judgment procedure causes the calculation means to exclude a period during which the test subject performs a predetermined work activity which uses the masseter muscle independently of the target work activity from a target period for stress judgment.

7. The stress-at-work judging program according to claim 6, wherein judgment procedure causes the calculation means to specify the period during which the test subject performs the predetermined work activity which uses the masseter muscle independently of the target work activity from voice data acquired by inputting a speech of the test subject or from image data acquired by inputting an image of a face of the test subject.

8. The stress-at-work judging program according to any one of claims 5 through 7, wherein the target work is a vehicle steering operation preformed by the test subject.

9. A stress-at-work judging method comprising:
a myoelectric potential signal input step of receiving a myoelectric potential signal from a masseter

muscle of a test subject during a target work activity performed through a movement of a muscle independent of a movement of the masseter muscle which is opening and closing jaws of the test subject; and

a stress judging step of judging stress from the myoelectric potential signal showing a change in the movement of the masseter muscle which appears when the target work activity acts as a stressor on the test subject.

10. The stress-at-work judging method according to claim 9, wherein the stress judging step includes excluding a period during which the test subject performs a predetermined work activity which uses the masseter muscle independently of the target work activity from a target period for stress judgment.

11. The stress-at-work judging method according to claim 10, wherein the stress judging step includes specifying the period during which the test subject performs the predetermined work activity which uses the masseter muscle independently of the target work activity from voice data acquired by inputting a speech of the test subject or from image data acquired by inputting an image of a face of the test subject.

12. The stress-at-work judging method according to any one of claims 9 through 11, wherein the target work is a vehicle steering operation performed by the test subject.